



FAYETTE:

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1845.

THE DEMOCRACY AND THE CONVENTION.

The initiatory step in the canvass for the Convention, was taken by the Democracy in the Legislative caucus which prepared the Senatorial District Bill. The districts were so arranged as to prevent whigs from being chosen, provided they could conduct the canvass on old party grounds. This is now being attempted. Party men are called on to come out for the Convention, and in order to make the rank and file of the party second the call, party prejudices are appealed to—the deformities of their own party carefully kept in the background—the whig party slandered and placed in a false position—and the past party services of the men called on held up to prove that they are true democrats—or unflinching partisans. None of the different individuals are called on for their opinions or views on the many subjects that will have to be disposed of by the convention, and in which the people are deeply interested: it is [enough (for the leaders) that they are democrats, and this is all they desire and intend the people shall know. It is this kind of party spirit we deprecate, and which we think should not enter into a canvass of this sort, and from which, men who expect to deliberate upon and frame a Republican Constitution, should be free. Does not every intelligent, honest citizen entertain the same views? Most assuredly. Then we repeat our caution of last week, to the people, to beware of those who appeal to them for support on party grounds. There certainly will be different opinions promulgated, and of course different parties before the people; there are various questions to be settled, and on some of them there may, and doubtless will be, honest differences of opinion, while on others, there can exist no honest difference. But, be it remembered, these differences (and these) parties have nothing to do with the present division of political parties—nor should they. There are differences of opinion on some points in the whig party, and there doubtless exists a contrariety of opinion in the democratic party—but of this, the public know but little, and will know less, for, as before remarked, it is the determination of the democratic leaders to keep out of view the objects of the convention, and conduct the canvass on old party grounds, which cannot fail to result in their favor, and when assembled at Jefferson, to rely on the brute force of numbers, to conduct the business of the convention as they please. Let them recollect, if they cheat and deceive the people now, they may see their work rejected, for it has to pass the ordeal of public examination and scrutiny. But this is what they desire, says one. If this is what they desire, let them accomplish it. Those who become callous, from their repeated diabolical acts, will inflict torment until their tormentors will suddenly turn upon them with a blow from which they will never recover. The majority in this State have been tending to this point for some time, and such a step, as in the minds of many they contemplate, will certainly bring them to it.

The "Democrat" objects to our views in reference to the approaching canvass for the convention, and it was to reply in part to it that we began to write. It objects particularly to our caution to the people to beware of those who appeal to them on party grounds. We re-assert that caution, and shall continue to do so, because, that party spirit which the "Democrat" is invoking, is the cloak under which the rights of the people of this State have been trampled under foot, the State involved in debt, tyranny upheld, and the constitution itself invaded, to satiate the unwholy ambition of an unprincipled and reckless majority. This is what that party spirit has done, and what it will do again. Is proof called for to substantiate the above charges? It is abundant, and fresh in the minds of the people. Look at the acts of the last Legislature, and it will be seen all this was done, and more. Are men who have aided and assisted in giving a legal form to such acts of tyranny fit persons to occupy a seat in a deliberative body which has for its object the formation of a constitution under which republicans are to live? A correspondent of the "Democrat," gives us the proof in one important particular, and we quote it, knowing the editor has given it his sanction, by placing it in his columns, and of course he must acknowledge its orthodoxy. And bear in mind, the tyranny of which he so justly complains, was the act of Democratic Party Spirit—the same spirit which we now caution the people to beware of. EQUAL REPRESENTATION.

TATION, the correspondent assumes to be one of the great objects of the convention, and in showing the present gross inequality of representation, he says: "Look at the county of Howard, containing a population of near 14,000, and paying a State revenue of over \$5,000, with but one representative in the legislature; while the county of Decatur, with a population of 2300, and State revenue of \$128, (and that paid in wolf-scalps) has an equal voice with Howard, in imposing taxes and disposing of the money. This is down-right TYRANNY, and calls loud for reform. Representation and population must be equal, and not as some have intimated: 'as near as the nature of circumstances will admit.' No circumstances can be presented in a free government, and before a free people, which will justify the giving equal political power to 2300 persons in one county, with 14,000 in another. It is the democrats of this conventional district, upon whom rest the responsibility of correcting this gross injustice, which bears so heavily upon every taxpayer in the district. And any man who lolls, or intimates a different doctrine, or fails to meet this question of equal representation, with a manly spirit, on all occasions, must be set down as a Hamiltonian federalist, and an aristocrat at heart, no matter what his professions on other subjects."

The editor says the whigs would clog the right of suffrage with restrictions, and they must be kept out of the convention. What have the democratic party done? The above extract from his correspondent shows. Matters stand just so on the subject of banking, between the two parties, as could be shown, had we time and room. We coincide in opinion with the correspondent of the "Democrat," on the subject of representation, but we think he does wrong in appealing to the democrats of the district to correct the error—we mean by appealing to them as democrats. They have sent men to the legislature who acted a prominent part in producing this state of things, and so long as party appeals are made and urged, such things will continue. Call upon them as freemen—show them how they have been deceived and imposed on, and their eyes will be opened to the true state of the case. If the canvass is conducted on party grounds, and members elected merely because of their party devotion, the convention will be impotent for good, but powerful for evil. A higher and more patriotic view should be taken, and he who fails to take such a view, writes himself down a demagogue, devoid of patriotism and tyrannical at heart.

LATE FROM MEXICO.—The arrival at New Orleans of the schooner *Water Witch*, from Vera Cruz, furnished Mexican papers of a late date—which, however, the *Tropic* says, contained not a word of news. Passengers in the *Water Witch* spoke of the war spirit in Mexico, as if it were a reality. According to their accounts, the Mexicans were eager for war with the United States. The day previous to the sailing of the *Water Witch*, a British man-of-war was dispatched from Vera Cruz in all haste, for Texas, with a secret message from the Mexican government. The purport of the message was reported to be an offer of that government to acknowledge the independence of Texas on condition that she is not to be annexed to the United States.

Nothing definite was known as to SANTA ANNA's fate: the impression seemed to be, that he would not fare so badly as had been anticipated.

The Lewis F. Linn left Glasgow on Saturday evening, April 12th; on Wednesday, 16th, at 6 P. M., struck a log or stump one mile below South Point, which caused her to leak so badly that it was found necessary to throw overboard a portion of her cargo—about four hundred barrels of wheat, and other articles, which enabled her to resume her journey.

The passengers have drawn up a card for publication, in which they testify, that the lighting of the boat, after she met with the accident, by throwing overboard four hundred barrels of wheat, forty barrels of lard and pork, and a lot of tobacco, which constituted her deck load, was, in their judgment, the only course that could be pursued, to prevent the boat from sinking, and becoming a total loss.

She reached St. Louis with about fifty tons of freight in a damaged condition and a portion was left, under guard, on a bar immediately below the point where the accident occurred.

She is now undergoing repairs and will be able to make her trips again, in a few days.

CONNECTICUT ELECTION.

The election which took place in Connecticut on the 7th inst., resulted in the choice of a Whig Governor, Whig Legislature, and Whig Congressmen from each Congressional District.

This is a glorious Whig Victory, and the unadvised whigs of Connecticut are entitled to the highest praise for achieving this victory at this time.

PARTICULARS OF THE GREAT FIRE IN PITTSBURG.

A most awful conflagration occurred in the city of Pittsburgh on the 10th inst., consuming more than one third of that city. The number of buildings destroyed is estimated at from ten to twelve hundred.

The *Pittsburgh Gazette* of the 12th inst. says: We have thrown together, under different heads, the principal incidents, with a list of the chief sufferers, of the great and ever-memorable fire of last Thursday. Our readers can rely upon the accuracy of our statements, and we assure them we have no whit exaggerated. Many things that ought to be mentioned are probably overlooked, but we have done the best we could under the circumstances.

The effect of this disaster on the business and prosperity of Pittsburgh.—We have carefully inquired of many of our clearest headed business men, those most thoroughly conversant with the resources of the city, as to the probable effect of this disaster upon its prosperity, and coupled with our own knowledge of the strength of the merchants who were burnt out, the position of their circumstances, &c., we are fully convinced that though the commercial prospects of the city are terribly shaken, yet it is not totally prostrated, and in due time it will rise above all. Our large manufacturing establishments are untouched—the only mills of importance which are burnt being the Globe Factory, which is the smallest in the city; the Kensington Iron Works, and Bakewell and Pears Glass Works. Various other smaller establishments were destroyed, but it is with great satisfaction we announce that the great leading branches are comparatively untouched, and that business, so far as they are concerned, will go on as usual. As for our wholesale merchants in the grocery, queensware, and dry goods branches who were burnt out, quite a number of them will commence forthwith. Some are wholly ruined, many much crippled, but we believe the majority can go on as usual, and yesterday they were busy getting places of business and offices.

It is with heartfelt pleasure we observe the fortitude with which they bear their losses. There is no repining—no despair—no sullenness; but a calm, determined spirit which must carry them up again. The effect will be to set us back for a moment but we never had more confidence in the strength and spirit of our merchants to overcome it all in time. It must not be supposed that all the business portions of the city are consumed. Most of the dry goods jobbers are untouched; so of the hardware merchants, and a number of the heavy houses are out of the limits of the burnt district. And it fortunately happens, too, that a large amount of groceries from the east, for the city, had not arrived. We repeat, therefore, that though the city is terribly shaken, it is neither ruined nor totally prostrated.

The Appearance of Things.—Yesterday morning we walked around the Burnt District. The appearance of things is awful—nothing but an immense forest of walls and chimneys is visible, and desolate heaps of brick and mortar. The fierce fire licked every combustible clean up. Nothing that would burn escaped. The Wharf was covered with merchandise of every description, furniture, &c., and many piles which were rolled out as it was thought beyond the reach of the flames, were consumed. Piles of burnt and partially consumed coffee, sugar, nails, iron, cotton, paper, tea, &c., &c., were scattered along it. Of the Monongahela Bridge, nothing remains, but a long line of burnt timber across the river, between the naked piers. All over the hills piles of furniture, bedding, &c., are scattered. Along the streets the only valuable things visible were safes, which the merchants took the precaution to haul out of their stores, and it was a prudent foresight, inasmuch as many of them proved of very little use. Among the ruins, crowds of people from other parts of the city and the country were wandering and gazing upon the scene. For ourselves, we, more than once were lost, and had to look around for some well known landmark to fix the locality.

Incidents of the Fire.—Soon after the fire got under headway, and the Globe Factory began to burn, the Third Presbyterian Church was in most imminent danger. The members of that denomination rallied around it, and by cutting away the end of the roof which projected over the wall next the fire, and covering the roof with wet cloths, succeeded in saving it. We saw clearly that the salvation of a dozen squares depended upon it, for had it caught, its immense steeples would have scattered clouds of fire over a considerable portion of the city which wholly escaped. The American Office was saved by throwing water upon the roof with buckets.

The block of buildings in which our office is located was saved by the efforts of the firemen in keeping the roofs wet, and particularly by a single hose from an engine on Fourth street, which saved the Post Office, and so saved the block.

The rapidity with which the fire spread was most remarkable. The whole of *South Ward*, containing from seven to nine hundred houses, was consumed entirely in the space of two hours. From the time the fire reached this Ward, across Wood street, until it spread to every part of it, covering about sixteen squares, there was scarce an interval of half an hour!

The Monongahela Bridge took fire at the north end, next to Pittsburgh, and the flames ran roaring and crackling through with railroad speed, and from the time the fire commenced, until it was prostrate in the river, ONLY TEN MINUTES ELAPSED!

The wind shifted at various times and created excessive dread in the other parts of the city. All the stores along Market street, in Diamond alley and Fifth street, as well as along Wood, were stripped and packed up, and so many of the goods moved as was possible. A gentleman doing business near the head of Liberty street, this

side the canal, tells us he would have cheerfully have given \$1,000 at one time, to have had an insurance from an office out of the city, on his stock of \$25,000, although the fire had not then got to Diamond alley. This is only a sample of the universal horror and dread which filled the city. At one time the wind blew due east, then south, then veered round towards the north. Such was the critical position of our office and the block in which it is, that, had the wind at one time veered to the north east for one minute, it would have gone.

Messrs. Sibbett & Jones opened their safe in the morning, but every book and paper in it was burnt up, and the gold and silver melted together.

Hardly one safe out of ten, exposed to the fire in the buildings, saved anything in it. We noticed a large number completely destroyed with all their contents.

A number of sick persons were removed, and not a few of them ladies, in very delicate situations.

The only life lost, that we heard of, was that of a poor woman in Third street.

Amidst all the distress, there were those around who added to the calamity by stealing. Among others, the Rev. Geo. S. Holmes had about \$300 stolen, which he had gathered up, by great economy, on a Methodist preacher's salary. He also lost a large number of valuable manuscripts, the labor of twenty years.

To show the rapidity of the fire we may mention that a gentleman of our acquaintance arrived at the American Hotel, about one o'clock, and leaving his trunk, walked out to see the fire, which was then nearly a quarter of a mile off. In a short time he returned and found the hotel in flames. He lost his trunk, with nearly all his clothing and papers, and a considerable sum of money.

One reason of the rapidity with which the fire spread, is to be found in the extraordinary dryness of the weather for two weeks past. We have not had a shower of rain in that time, with not a trifling exception. Every particle of wood in the houses of the city, was as dry as tinder.

Amidst all the horror, destruction and confusion prevailing throughout the city, there was no unmanly fear or vain repinings manifested. The sufferers bore their calamities with manly firmness, and as soon as they had unavailingly tried to save their own property, they put forth their exertions to save their neighbors. At one time, when it was thought the whole city must go, there was no wildness apparent—no want of a dignified and manly bearing. This conduct speaks volumes in praise of our citizens, and gives indications that their indomitable energies are not to be crushed.

The Insurance Offices, the *Gazette* says, we believe are totally ruined. We learn from a reliable source that the Fireman's Insurance Office has lost \$249,000, and will pay about 40 cents on the dollar. The fire and Navigation Company have lost \$200,000, and will pay the whole amount. The Penn Office we have heard nothing of, but believe it is ruined, and will pay only a small percentage on the dollar. The Mutual Office, we understand, will pay all risks—losses \$65,000.

The losses of some individuals and houses are enormous, ranging from \$5,000 up to \$200,000. Thus, one firm of wholesale grocers, the heaviest holders of sugar, molasses, &c., in the city, and also owners of the building in which they did business, cannot have lost less than from \$80 to \$100,000. There is the Monongahela House, also, which cost \$200,000, including the furniture. In many instances merchants not only lost stocks worth \$200,000, but also their dwelling houses and every dollar's worth of furniture and clothes they possessed. Said one, I have lost \$30,000 and have but one dollar in the world.

LATER FROM TEXAS.

The steamship *Marmora*, Capt. PAGE, arrived at New Orleans April 5, from Galveston, bringing papers to the 29th ult. inclusive. Major DONELSON went out in the *Marmora* on her last trip. He proceeded, immediately on his arrival at Galveston, to the seat of government.

The Civilian says, it has not learned whether the American charge comes prepared to promote annexation under Mr. Brown's or Mr. Benton's plan, or whether he is empowered to act under either that may be most convenient in attaining the end desired. The same paper, referring to a statement made by a Washington letter writer, that President Polk will adopt the alternative of negotiating a treaty of cession with Texas, expresses a hope that such may be the case; "for, (says that paper,) Mr. Brown's plan proposes terms neither creditable to Texas or to the United States."

The following extracts, are also from the Civilian:

"The British ship of war *Electra*, arrived at Galveston on the 21st March, with despatches for the British minister in Texas. They are said to be of importance in the present state of affairs. Capt. Elliott, who was here, proceeded to the seat of government yesterday, in company with the French minister, who also received despatches from his government by this arrival."

The same paper of the 29th, says:

"Nothing has yet transpired here relative to the character of the despatches brought by the *Electra*. Should this vessel not have brought definite and complete propositions for the settlement of our affairs with Mexico, we shall regard annexation as settled. For ourselves we ask nothing better than the present condition of things in Texas, and the advantages which she, of herself, is capable of deriving from them. This, however, is not the general feeling, and, unless a clear and unconditional acknowledgment of our independence is now extended to the country, we believe that it will be useless to contend for the popular desire of annexation."

The News, of the 25th, referring to the

floating conjectures and vague surmises as to the nature of the despatches brought by the *Electra*, says—

The English and French ministers have already left for Washington on the *Brazos*; and it is excitingly stated that England has at last obtained our recognition from Mexico, and that annexation must and will be defeated in the United States, contrary to all the predictions of foreign agents here, and in spite of all the efforts to prevent it. It is positively asserted by those who profess to understand the full plan of operations, that annexation can never take place; and that measures are now in operation to counteract the public opinion, and defeat the acknowledged wishes of the people of Texas. We can only say that those who undertake to resist the strong democratic feeling of this country, should "take care how they stand, lest they fall." The offer of our recognition through the agency of foreign mediation at this time, can only be looked upon as a bribe to defeat annexation. Whether such an offer is now made or not, we do not pretend to know; but one thing we do know, that the people of Texas have sense enough to appreciate, fully, favors that have been withheld while they were needed, and are now only offered as the last alternative to defeat the progress of republicanism, and to make us instrumental in carrying out a foreign policy on this continent.

The Civilian, of the 26th, alluding to the great anxiety felt to know what estimate General Houston puts upon the resolutions of the United States Congress, as his influence with the people is calculated to have a material bearing upon the matter, says:

We have seen a letter from him, dated the 20th inst. He had not heard of the passage of the resolutions, and did not anticipate the passage of any measures amounting to annexation by the United States Congress, previous to its adjournment. We are inclined to believe that he would not be disposed to present any obstacle to annexation on fair terms to Texas; but we doubt whether he will regard the resolutions adopted (except under the second plan proposed) as affording the means of effecting it.

The same paper, speaking of the late meeting of "the friends of annexation" in Galveston, says:

The meeting was respectable, both in numbers and decorum; but it did not express, or profess to express the sentiments of a majority of the people of Galveston. A majority of our citizens are opposed to annexation; a greater majority are not satisfied with the resolutions of the United States Congress. In Galveston, at least, the passage of these resolutions has excited but little enthusiasm. The meeting alluded to, passed a resolution requiring the friends of annexation to illuminate their houses on Saturday evening. The whole number illuminated in the city, in accordance with the resolution, did not exceed twenty.

The News publishes a report of the proceedings of a meeting held at San Felipe, as follows:

A meeting of the friends of annexation was held at San Felipe, Austin county, at which a resolution was passed expressing the confidence of the people in the government of the United States, and their wish for immediate union; saying, "to its terms and conditions they are indifferent, having the fullest confidence that the U. States will receive freemen as freemen ought to be received."

We learn from the News that the Hon. Archibald Yell, of Arkansas, was at Galveston.

The News says, speaking of the joint resolutions, "we have information from various sources, entitled to the utmost credit, that president Jones will give this great measure, his cordial support."

In the county of Austin, a public meeting was held on the subject of annexation, and a vote taken *pro* and *con* on the resolution, which resulted: 555 yeas, 1 nay.

The schooner *Leu Ellen*, Capt. Hurd, from Port la Boca, arrived at Galveston on the 25th ultimo, bringing the latest intelligence received from the west. Several persons from Corpus Christi, recently arrived in Victoria, previous to the sailing of the schooner, who report that the whole country between the Nueces and Rio Grande is in possession of the Comanche Indians. All trade has ceased between Corpus Christi and San Antonio, several parties of Mexican traders have been captured and murdered. The Indians are reported to number about 800 or 1,000 strong. This great inundation of savages in Northern Mexico, has produced great consternation in the region of country bordering upon the Rio Grande. They have committed numerous depredations upon citizens and property. Men, women and children have been carried off in captivity. Some fears were entertained at Matamoras that the Indians would attack that place.

Cul. Hays, with his small band of veterans, were on the *qui vive* in case they should make an attempt upon our border settlements.

Between seventy and eighty horses were stolen from Victoria, about ten days since, they are supposed to have been taken by the Indians.

Death of Young Coleman.—The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Post says: "I am pained at announcing the death of young COLEMAN, inventor of the 'Æolian attachment' to pianos, and formerly of your city. He has been an invalid for years, but his recent return from Europe, attended with a good deal of excitement, seemed to affect him much; but a few days since he left this city for Saratoga, expecting that the quiet of his father's house would soon restore him. He died rather suddenly on Saturday evening, the 5th inst."

Failures in New York.—The New York Herald of the 7th says: Within the past six weeks there has been in this city a suspension of payment by six large mercantile houses, importers and jobbers, on liabilities varying from eighty up to five hundred thousand dollars each. The failure of these houses has been directly produced by the immense losses on goods and the bankruptcy of many of their Southern and western customers. The depreciation in the foreign importations of this port from the first of July and the low price of all the staple products of the sections of country largely indebted to the merchants of this city—restricting the resources of the people of these sections and preventing them from paying up as promptly as necessary—have produced all the commercial embarrassment under which so many merchants of this city are now suffering, and from which several houses have been temporarily relieved by a suspension of payment.

NEWSPAPER CHANGES.—The Washington Constitution of the 8th says: We believe it is generally understood that the *Globe* establishment is about to pass into the hands of Thomas Ritchie, Esq., of the "Richmond Enquirer," and Mr. Heiss, formerly of the "Nashville Union." And also that the Madisonian has been sold to Jesse E. Dow, Esq., formerly of the "Washington Index," and T. Fisk, Esq., formerly of the "Old Dominion."

The Madisonian contains the announcement of the change in the proprietorship of that paper, above mentioned. Under its new management it is to take the name of "The Constellation."

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT—TOTAL WRECK OF THE STEAMBOAT SWALLOW—A NUMBER OF LIVES LOST!

The following account of one of the most appalling steamboat accidents on record, we copy from the Baltimore American, of the 10th:

The steamer *Swallow* left Albany at 3 o'clock on Monday evening, with two or three other boats, to come directly to New York. She had on board a large number of passengers, probably three hundred and fifty in all. When passing through the narrow channel at Athens, she ran upon a large rock, called "the brig." The bow ran up so high that it was impossible to stand upon the deck. The keel broke, and the stern bent upwards, and still went down so much that in three minutes the two cabins were full of water. The scene among the passengers may be imagined. It was 9 o'clock in the evening, and very few of them were in their berths. The upper part of the boat soon took fire, which increased the alarm.

The evening was very dark and the wind blowing fresh at the time the boat struck. Fortunately the Rochester, Capt. Cruttenberg was but a few boats length behind, but by the time he succeeded in rounding to and reaching the *Swallow* the water was up to the top of the ladies' cabin.

The passengers were taken off by Capt. Cruttenberg, but so short was the interval from the time the *Swallow* struck till she went down, that it is impossible to say how many lives were lost.

ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.—The New York Mirror, of Tuesday afternoon, says: "Since the above account was in type, we have learned the following additional particulars:

The boat was at great speed, and when it struck, it doubled over the island like a ribbon. It was a wonderful sight, to behold the bows pointing up to the heavens, from the very top of the rocks, while the stern was almost entirely under water.

Several estimable ladies, diligently enquired after this morning, on both the Rochester and Express, could not be found, and sad apprehensions are entertained. As the berth list of the *Swallow* was by no means complete, the full extent of the loss cannot be ascertained until it be known from many scattered and distant homes, who had probably trusted themselves to the fatal vessel. There were several passengers from the western States.

The awful cry of hundreds in their terrible agony was heard, it is related, full a mile away.

The following additional particulars are from the New York Herald, of Wednesday:

Our accounts differ in regard to the number of lives lost, some saying fifty, others a hundred. It will be impossible to say with exactness how many are lost, as the passengers probably were not all booked. Several bodies have been recovered.

The Missouri Reporter of the 22d inst. says: The St. Louis MISSOURIAN, alias THE LITTLE GLOBE, died yesterday. We copy the following paragraph from it:

"With the present number ceases for a while, the publication of the Daily Missouriian. When arrangements shall have been made for establishing it on a more permanent basis, it will again be resumed. 'It is not dead, but sleeping.'"

And, if memory serves us, Rip Van Winkle slept considerably more than half a century.

The City election of New York, resulted in favor of the locofocos. They elected a Mayor, and majority of the Aldermen. There was a whig locofoco, and native ticket. The whigs divided on their own and the native candidate, which secured the election of the locofoco.

The general election throughout the State for supervisors resulted favorable to the whigs.

N. P. Tallmadge has been removed from the office of Governor of Wisconsin, and Gen. Dodge appointed in his place. Mr. Tallmadge was appointed by Tyler.